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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,878	02/22/2002	Paul Trevithick	PARITY-101J	9151
32488	7590	09/24/2007	EXAMINER	
IANDIORIO & TESKA 260 BEAR HILL ROAD WALTHAM, MA 02451-1018			CHANG, JUNGWON	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2154	
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			09/24/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/080,878

Applicant(s)

TREVITHICK ET AL.

Examiner

Jungwon Chang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____</p> | <p>4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application</p> <p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> |
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FINAL ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to amendment filed on 6/28/07. Claims 28 and 29 have been canceled. Claims 1-27 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borwankar (US 6,594,693), in view of Murakami et al, (US 6,978,292), hereinafter Murakami.
4. As to claims 1 and 15, Borwankar discloses the invention as claimed, including a method of characterizing relationships among members of a social network (col. 8, line 53 – col. 9, line 21), the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a plurality of messages communicated during a dialogue between members of a social network (col. 6, lines 17-67, “online group messaging...participants in the group conversation can communicate with each other”);
 - determining a purpose for each of the messages (col. 7, lines 22-63, “content type line 308 indicates what type of content is contained in a body 312”; col. 8, lines 1-

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52, "content type tag");

determining a status of the dialogue (abstract, col. 4, lines 1-13, "terminate the sub-conversation, terminate the conversation, invite a late participant, delete an existing participant");

determining at least one pattern in the messages communicated during the dialogue (fig. 5b; col. 10, line 51 – col. 11, line 6; col. 4, lines 1-13, "terminate the sub-conversation, terminate the conversation, invite a late participant, delete an existing participant"); and

characterizing the relationships among the members of the social network based on the pattern and purposes of the messages (fig. 4; col. 8, line 53 – col. 9, line 21, "initiator...the person who is responsible for organizing the party...Christmas party committee may have seven other members...A topic such as Dining arrangements associated with the Christmas party conversation has one initiator and one terminator").

5. Borwanker explicitly teaches determining a status of dialogue (fig. 7a; col. 11, line 43 – col. 12, line 38, "*examining a message...a message between receipt of a message...and delivery...determines whether a particular conversation name and topic name of the message being examined exists*") and updating the dialogue message as the dialogue progresses (710, fig. 7a, "**add conversation and topic to table in meta information**"; col. 11, lines 7-42, "information associated with each message informs the user of the history of the message...what messages preceded the current message, participants involved, dates and times messages were sent, and under what

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conversations, sub-conversations, and topics they were sent are all available to a participant in a conversation...*this type of historical information behind each message is maintained at each client machine and is enforced by the persistence*"; col. 12, lines 1-5, ***"it adds the conversation name and topic name to the participant's meta information***; col. 1, lines 57-62). Furthermore, Murakami explicitly discloses updating the dialogue status (figs. 4, 7; col. 9, line 51 – col. 11, line 24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Borwankar and Murakami because Murakami's updating the dialog status would enable a user to select a virtual space (chat room) based on the chat contents (Murakami, col. 2, lines 52-65).

6. As to claim 2, Borwankar discloses selecting one of a plurality of purpose categories (abstract, col. 4, lines 1-13, "terminate the sub-conversation, terminate the conversation, invite a late participant, delete an existing participant"); and embedding indicia of the selected purpose category in at least one of the plurality of messages (fig. 3; col. 4, lines 14-33; col. 7, line 12 – col. 8, line 52).

7. As to claim 3, Borwankar discloses determining the purpose of at least one of the plurality of messages by extracting the indicia therefrom (fig. 3; col. 7, line 12 – col. 8, line 52).

8. As to claim 4, Borwankar discloses determining the purpose of each of the

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messages by extracting indicia of such purpose from a body section of each message (312, fig. 3a; 324, fig. 3b; col. 7, line 12 – col. 8, line 52).

9. As to claim 5, Borwankar discloses determining the purpose of each of the messages by extracting indicia of such purpose from a header section of each message (302-310, fig. 3a; 302-322, fig. 3b; col. 7, line 12 – col. 8, line 52).

10. As to claim 6, Borwankar discloses at least one of the messages is an electronic mail message (col. 1, lines 16-19).

11. As to claim 7, Borwankar discloses wherein the purpose determined for each of the messages is selected from at least one of a note, an acknowledgement, a counter, a reverse counter, a complete, a commit, an acceptance, an offer, an invitation, a withdrawal, an opt-out, a request, and a question (fig. 5b; col. 4, lines 1-13, "invite the conversation, terminate the sub-conversation, terminate the conversation, invite a late participant, delete an existing participant"; col. 10, line 51 – col. 11, line 6, "decline, acceptance, invitation").

12. As to claim 8, Borwankar discloses wherein the pattern in the messages corresponds to one of a frequency of interaction, a latency in response, a latency in completion, a successful completion ratio, a nonresponsive ration, an unsuccessful ration, and a number of participating members until completion (col. 10, line 51 – col. 11, line 6, "no response after a predetermined amount of time"; col. 9, lines 1-21, "seven

other members”).

13. As to claim 9, Borwankar discloses analyzing the purpose for each of the messages to determine the pattern in the messages (col. 4, lines 1-13, “invite the conversation, terminate the sub-conversation, terminate the conversation, invite a late participant, delete an existing participant”; col. 10, line 51 – col. 11, line 6, “decline, acceptance, invitation”).

14. As to claims 10, 11, 13 and 14, Borwankar does not specifically disclose classifying the outcome for each of the messages as one of a favorable, unfavorable, and neutral type and assigning a score to each of the members of the social network participating in the dialogue. However, Murakami discloses classifying the outcome for each of the messages as one of a favorable, unfavorable, and neutral type and assigning a score to each of the members of the social network participating in the dialogue (fig. 4; col. 10, line 10 – col. 11, line 24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Borwankar and Murakami because Murakami’s classifying the outcome and assigning a score would encourage smoother communication by allowing only members to communicate each other who have similar interests (Murakami, col. 12, lines 20-32).

15. As to claims 12 and 25, Borwankar does not specifically disclose incrementing and decrementing the score assigned to a particular one of the participating members in

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response to favorable purposes associated with messages transmitted by that particular participating member. However, Murakami discloses incrementing and decrementing the score assigned to a particular one of the participating members in response to outcomes associated with the messages transmitted by that particular participating member (fig. 4; col. 7, line 51 – col. 8, line 67; col. 10, line 10 – col. 11, line 24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Borwankar and Murakami because Murakami's adjusting the score would encourage smoother communication by expelling a member who is not suitable in the dialogue (Murakami, col. 12, lines 20-32).

16. As to claim 16, it is rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 2 above.

17. As to claim 17, it is rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 4 above.

18. As to claim 18, it is rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 5 above.

19. As to claim 19, it is rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 6 above.

20. As to claim 20, it is rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 7 above.

21. As to claim 21, it is rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 8 above.

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22. As to claim 22, it is rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 9 above.

23. As to claims 23, 24, 26 and 27, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 10, 11, 13 and 14 above.

Response to Arguments

24. Applicant's arguments filed 6/28/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

25. Applicant asserts that both Borwanker and Murakami do not teach "determining a status of a dialogue and updating the dialogue status as the dialogue progresses.

The examiner respectfully disagrees. The examiner finds that Borwanker explicitly teaches determining a status of dialogue (fig. 7a; col. 11, line 43 – col. 12, line 38, "*examining a message...a message between receipt of a message...and delivery...determines whether a particular conversation name and topic name of the message being examined exists*") and updating the dialogue *message* as the dialogue progresses (710, fig. 7a, "***add conversation and topic to table in meta information***; col. 11, lines 7-42, "information associated with each message informs the user of the history of the message...what messages preceded the current message, participants involved, dates and times messages were sent, and under what conversations, sub-conversations, and topics they were sent are all available to a participant in a conversation...*this type of historical information behind each message is maintained at*

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each client machine and is enforced by the persistence"; col. 12, lines 1-5, ***"it adds the conversation name and topic name to the participant's meta information***; col. 1, lines 57-62). Furthermore, the examiner does not rely upon Murakami to teach determining the status of a dialogue. Murakami relies on only to teach updating the dialogue status (figs. 4, 7; col. 9, line 51 – col. 11, line 24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Borwankar and Murakami because Murakami's updating the dialog status would enable a user to select a virtual space (chat room) based on the chat contents (Murakami, col. 2, lines 52-65).

26. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

27. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

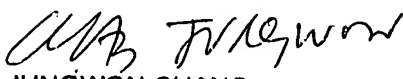
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examiner should be directed to Jungwon Chang whose telephone number is 571-272-3960. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-2:00 (Monday-Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Flynn can be reached on 571-272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

September 16, 2007


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